

Message Text

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

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TAGS: MILI, UR, XJ

SUBJECT: TASS STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN ATTACK ON MOZAMBIQUE

REF: MOSCOW A-114 NOTAL

SUMMARY: AUTHORITATIVE TASS STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN ATTACK
AGAINST TERRITORY OF MOZAMBIQUE WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES, HINTS
AT SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE FRIENDSHIP TREATY,
AND CRITICIZES WESTERN COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY UK) FOR POLICIES
TOWARD RHODESIA. AT SAME TIME CENTRAL PRESS CARRIED
REPORT ON SUCCESS OF MOZAMBIQUE FORCES IN REPELLING
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INVADERS. END SUMMARY.

1. JUNE 3 PRAVDA AND KZ CARRY TASS STATEMENT ON
RHODESIAN MILITARY INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE. SIGNIFICANT
POINTS MADE IN STATEMENT ARE:
--ATTACKS CAN HAVE SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONSE-
QUENCES. THERE IS GREAT INDIGNATION IN SOVIET UNION

OVER NEWS OF INVASION OF MOZAMBIQUE, A COUNTRY WITH
WHICH SOVIET UNION RECENTLY CONCLUDED FRIENDSHIP TREATY;
--TASS IS AUTHORIZED TO STATE THAT FULL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR CONSEQUENCES OF INVASION MUST BE BORNE
BY RACIST REGIMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THEIR PROTECTORS;
--ATTACKS HAVE COME AT SAME TIME AS SOME WESTERN
STATES ARE CARRYING OUT "ENDLESS" NEGOTIATIONS WITH
SMITH REGIME WHICH TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES
SHIELDS AND LEGALIZES THAT REGIME. STATEMENT OF
BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL
IT USE FORCE AGAINST SMITH REGIME REPRESENTS DIRECT
ENCOURAGEMENT TO REGIME TO ATTACK NEIGHBORING STATES
AND PERSECUTE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE EVEN MORE.

2. COMMENT: IN THE SCALE OF SOVIET SIGNALS, A TASS
"STATEMENT" IS AUTHORITATIVE, ALTHOUGH LESS SO THAN
ONE BY PRAVDA OR A STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.
SOVIETS PROBABLY ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED OVER RHODESIAN
CROSS BORDER ATTACK SINCE IT WILL, BOTH DIRECTLY AND
INDIRECTLY, INCREASE PRESSURE ON THEM TO ESCALATE THEIR
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE LIBERATION MOVEMENT
FORCES AND REGULAR FORCES OF MOZAMBIQUE. WITH REGARD
TO LATTER, WORKING LEVEL SOVIET MFA CONTACTS HAVE
REMINDED US IN PAST THAT MILITARY PROVISIONS OF SOVIET
FRIENDSHIP TREATIES MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IF EXTERNAL
THREAT TO COUNTRIES INVOLVED INCREASES (REF AIRGRAM).

3. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS INTERESTING THAT TASS STATEMENT
WAS PUBLISHED ONLY AS ACTUAL DANGER RECEDDED (ACCORDING
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TO WIRELESS FILE ACCOUNT OF TROOP MOVEMENTS). THIS
POINT WAS IMPLICITLY BROUGHT HOME TO SOVIET READER
BY TASS MAPUTO REPORT IN BOTH PRAVDA AND KZ ON STATE-
MENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL STAFF OF MOZAMBIQUE
ARMED FORCES THAT MOZAMBIQUE FORCES ARE IN COMPLETE
CONTROL OF REGION WHICH HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY SMITH
REGIME.
MATLOCK

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